

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED Dec 28 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Carlheim (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Paxton Home for Children

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Route 15, N of Leesburg

CITY, TOWN

Leesburg

☒ VICINITY OF

Tenth (Joseph L. Fisher)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Loudoun

CODE

107

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

(residential child care)

NAME

Paxton Home for Children, c/o Mr. Huntington Harris - Chairman of the Board

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 356

CITY, TOWN

Leesburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22075

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Loudoun County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leesburg

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

has this property been

determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carlheim is an elaborate Victorian estate just north of Leesburg, off U.S. Route 15. It consists of a large mansion, several contemporary outbuildings, and remains of an informally landscaped Victorian park. Now used as a home for children, much of the original ambiance of the place has succumbed to its institutional use. However, the essential elements are intact and stand as a rare Virginia expression of upper-class, mid-Victorian taste.

The dominant element of Carlheim is the large main house constructed of dark brown Seneca sandstone laid in random ashlar with pinkish sandstone used for quoins and other trimming. The 2½-story house has the stepped-back facade characteristic of the Italian Villa mode. The facade's most conspicuous feature is a tall square tower, the base of which is the entrance vestibule. The 4½-level tower was originally topped by a concave mansard roof corresponding to the house's main roof. Unfortunately the tower was struck by lightning in the early 1970s, and the roof was destroyed. The tower is now covered by a temporary flat roof.

Exterior detailing of the main house is relatively restrained. The mansard is of slate with bands of clipped-corner shingles. The roof may have had cresting, but no evidence of it remains. Skirting the roof is a fairly simple bracketed cornice. A one-story veranda extends along the entire west side and around the corners. It appears to be a reworking of an earlier design which probably was more elaborate. The porte-cochere follows the same design as the veranda but looks to be a later addition, most likely dating from around 1900. Villa-style houses rarely had porte-cocheres at the base of the entrance tower. The dormers are comparatively fancy and allude more to the Eastlake style with their incised consoles and openwork gables. Windows throughout the house have 2/2 sashes of no particular elaboration other than their stone segmental arches. All the first-floor windows facing onto the veranda extend to the floor. The library and parlor have bay windows opening onto the veranda.

The overall dimensions of the exterior exclusive of the service wing are approximately 56'x80'. Massiveness and solidity are the general impressions conveyed by the structure. A brooding quality imparted by the use of the dark stone makes the house a characteristic representative of the "brown decades" as described by Lewis Mumford.

In contrast to the exterior, the interior is lively and rich. While it has been much cut up and painted up, especially on the upper floors, enough of the original trim remains to convey a sense of the house's original elegance. In the parlor, as well as throughout the first floor, is heavy molded door and window trim typical of late Italianate woodwork. The parlor's white marble mantel is exceptionally fine and retains its original mantel mirror. The fancy plaster ceiling medallion is delightfully embellished with four upside-down doves. In the library, located between the parlor and the dining room, are the original dark wood bookcases with glass doors. The library has its original elaborate colored marble mantel and original mirror. The dining room also has much of its original trim including paneled wainscoting and colored marble mantel, but like the rest of the building, it has been painted in institutional colors, and the floors have been covered over with linoleum. The long central hall is unencumbered; the almost monumental stair ascends in a lateral hall opposite the entrance to the parlor. The stair is typical of the 1870s and features a heavy, tapered hexagonal newel, turned balusters, and molded handrail, all in dark wood. Paralleling the stair is paneled wainscoting.

(see Continuation Sheet #1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES early 1870s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry C. Dudley, Architect
John Norris, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An important side effect of the economic ruin Virginia suffered as a result of the Civil War is the lack of any quantity of notable houses reflecting the architectural tastes of the 1860s and 1870s. Unlike the Northern states, where fine dwellings in a variety of mid-Victorian styles abound, Virginia towns and countryside are generally bare of the grandiose creations that symbolized post-bellum prosperity. Carlheim, the rambling stone mansion erected in the early 1870s near Leesburg for Charles R. Paxton, a wealthy industrialist, thus is an architectural rarity in Virginia and stands as a welcome representative of its style and period.

The rich and scenic farmland of Loudoun County was an attractive investment in 1869 when Mr. and Mrs. Paxton decided to establish a summer country seat away from the industries of their hometown, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. In that year they purchased 765 acres from Abner Trundle for \$50,000. The price was generous; most Virginians then were compelled to exchange land for hard cash at bargain rates. The Paxtons did not stint however; they wanted no resentment from their future neighbors as a result of appearing to take advantage of them.

Construction of the thirty-two-room house began shortly after the purchase. The design, showing the influence of both the Second Empire and Italian Villa styles, was supplied by Henry C. Dudley FAIA, of New York. Dudley employed fashionably sombre stonework for the walls but relieved the dark hues with fancy Victorian detailing on the verandas, windows, and other highlights. The house's appointments were all up-to-date and were of first-rate quality. Elaborate mantels, silver hardware, and rich plasterwork were used to ornament the interior. Adding comfort and efficiency were a central heating system, hot and cold running water, a carbide gas lighting system, and a vault. Completing the picture of a proper Victorian country establishment were a large service wing, an ice house, manager's cottage, carriage house, and a peacock house, all of which survive. Correspondence relating to the building of the house remains in the library and includes letters between Mr. Paxton and the architect and between the architect and the builder, John Norris.

Mr. Paxton was the president of the Bloomsburg Iron Company. His wealth enabled him and his wife to be generous hosts at their Virginia home. A diary of Mrs. Armistead Rust of Rockland (ca. 1900) indicates that Mrs. Paxton's receptions were not to be missed and were always considered a special event.

Mr. Paxton died in 1882, but his wife continued to use Carlheim until her death in 1922. In her will she stipulated that the house and fifty acres be established as a home for children in memory of her daughter. The property remains a children's home to this day, and although the main house has taken on an institutional air, and the grounds now have several new buildings, much of the Victorian flavor of the Paxton's elegant villa remains. The place is now known as the Paxton Memorial Home. Its original name, Carlheim, is German for Carl's house and alluded to Mr. Paxton's first name.

CL/JGL

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewis, John G. Unpublished manuscript in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.
Loudoun County Deed Book 6A Folio 7.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 52 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 2,7,9 3,2,0 4,3 3,3 3,4,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1,8 2,7,8 7,8,0 4,3 3,3 0,1,0

QUADRANGLE NAME Leesburg, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

E 1,8 2,7,8 7,6,0 4,3 3,3 5,7,0
B 1,8 2,7,9 3,1,0 4,3 3,3 2,3,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1,8 2,7,8 4,9,0 4,3 3,3 1,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the E side of the U.S. Route 15 at its intersection with N corporate boundary of the Town of Leesburg; thence extending about 1900' NE along said side of said route; thence extending about 1300' SE along fence line; thence extending about 550' due E (following fence line for last 450'); thence extending about 350' S along fence line; thence extending about 500' W; thence extending about 1450' SW of N corporate boundary of Leesburg; thence extending about 1000' WNW along said boundary to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(304) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

OCT 16 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE Dec 28 1979

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Carlheim, Loudoun County, Virginia

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

Most upper-floor plans have been altered for apartments, but all the original trim is intact. The 1½-story service wing extends from the northeast corner and has been modernized on the first floor. An interesting feature of the wing is an ice house contained in a small wing projecting from the north wall. Throughout the house is a variety of closets, bathrooms, storage areas, and other spaces necessary for the operation of a large, sociable house of the Victorian era. An original feature of the house since removed was a 2000-gallon tank in the attic which was fed by a drain in the center of the roof. Attached to the tank were pipes and valves which ran down through the house to fire hoses.

Carlheim's outbuildings are mostly to the east of the main house. Most impressive of these is the large, three-part barn and carriage house built of the native, dark brown fieldstone. Nearby is a stone, cross-shaped peacock house topped by a fancy louvred cupola. The peacock house has been converted to a residence. The manager's house is a diminutive, 1½-story structure covered with a jerkinhead roof. Also on the grounds is a stone smokehouse.

Several modern structures have been built on the grounds to accommodate the institution. They are relatively discreet, however, and make no significant impact. Some large old trees and clumps of shrubbery give a hint that the grounds were formerly a fine example of Victorian landscaping. The grounds are tidy but otherwise unattended. The institution's administration is respectful of the historic structures at Carlheim and keeps them in generally good repair; however, no special effort has been made to cultivate the original flavor of the place.

CL

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries have been drawn to include the main house and historical outbuildings and most of the park. The boundaries conform to fence lines, Route 15, and a line parallel to the south side of the drive. Boundaries include the entrance to the property, as the drive to the house is part of the original landscaping.

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Leesburg, Va. 1968(PR1978)

CARLHEIM, Loudoun County, Virginia
UTM References:

A- 18/279320/433340 B- 18/279310/433330
C- 18/278780/4333010 D- 18/278490/433330
E- 18/278760/4333570

